

Galley staff puts out all the fixin's

Story and photo by MC1 Robert Lamb, NAVSTA Public Affairs

Before anyone starts complaining about how many mouths they've fed on Thanksgiving Day, consider what the Gold Hill, Leeward, and Seaside Galleys' food service staffs had on their plate.

While many residents of Guantanamo Bay were home preparing a Thanksgiving meal for a small group of family and friends, the staffs of all three galleys were up early preparing for an estimated 1,400 customers, quite a larger crowd than a normal home gathering.

"PENTAD provided excellent support for the Thanksgiving dinner preparation," said Mike Firme, facilities manager for Gold Hill Galley.

The Food Service Staff at all three galleys combined to slice more than 1,400 pounds of turkey, 1,000 pounds of roast beef, 190 pounds of ham, and prepare 350 pounds of shrimp.

It wasn't just servicemembers on duty who were served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 23.

Everyone on station was welcome - those on duty, civilians, contractors, and anyone else who didn't want to slave over a hot stove for just

two or three people.

"I never think twice about enjoying holiday dinners at our Gold Hill galley," said NDC(DSW) Jose Castillo.

"The friendly staff always does a top-notch job with the food and presentation. My daughter, Phoenix, particularly enjoys the stuffing, and I like the boat-load of shrimp and freshly made cocktail sauce."

The culinary expertise of the GTMO food service staffs that is expected on a daily basis, really shines on holidays, like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The food service staffs might not always get the glory and the recognition that they deserve, but on such a special holiday, they know that patrons are lining up for a great hot Thanksgiving meal with all the fixin's.

"Pentad's professional attitude and high degree of personal initiatives have been a key factor in the consistent food service currently enjoyed in the general mess," said Firme. "Gold Hill Galley continues to be a flagship facility, and general feeding continues to increase for both Gold Hill and Seaside Galleys due to strong customer satisfaction."



Charlie Ganal, Gold Hill Galley Chef, cuts through a turkey like a surgeon. The galleys combined to serve more than 1,400 pounds of turkey during the Thanksgiving Day meal.

VCNO talks candidly ...

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RDML Harry Harris Jr., the JTF commander, noted that there are a number of incentives being considered for those stationed in GTMO, including Hazardous Duty Pay Location (HDPL).

"As most of you know, we just received approval for HDPL," said RDML Harris. The Naval Station got a \$50 increase, and JTF got a \$150 increase."

In his closing remarks, ADM Willard expressed his appreciation for the work be-

ing done by the senior leadership and every military and civilian person in GTMO.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to be here," he said. "We have a lot of Sailors here who are working in very difficult and challenging circumstances, and doing work that is a little outside the norm."

We (senior Navy leadership) are very, very proud of the work everyone is doing here for our Navy, and the War on Terror."

Women's Spa Day



Sunday Dec. 3



MWR and the NEX have collaborated for Women's Spa Day.

Stephenie's Manhattan is offering free pumpkin peel facials and massages, in the Windjammer Ballroom, on a first-come, first-served basis, 1-6 p.m.

The NEX Beauty Shop has a free gift bag for the first 100 women, as well as one-day only discounts on chemical services and nail sets, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.